TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

240 Springfield Street Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095 (413) 596-2800, Ext. 204



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 18, 2015

The Conservation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Members present: Christopher Brown, Chairman, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton

Smead

Staff: Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Donation of Land Shady Lane (lots 10-15)

There have been numerous discussions in prior meetings regarding the plots on Shady Lane that Mrs. Ham would like to donate to the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Ham attended the meeting with the Open Space and Recreation Committee the evening before and indicated that they were in approval of the Town accepting the parcels. There is typically several criteria that should entice the Town, specifically the OSRC and Conservation Commission, to accept such a donation including; environmental impact, is it adjacent to other Open Space or Conservation property, does it have existing trails. The Conservation Commission recently accepted 2 adjacent parcels from Mrs. Ham and may be a corridor for wildlife.

Motion: Jim Roberts, recommend to the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation of land located on Shady Lane and currently owned by Mrs. Ham

2nd: Stoughton Smead

Unanimously in favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton Smead

Donation of Land 23R Deerfield Drive & 700V Glendale Road

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission received a memo from the President and Treasurer of Stirrup, Inc. requesting that the Town of Wilbraham accept two parcels of land for conservation purposes. The land known as 23R Deerfield Drive is located in Red Gap Estates and is at the end of Deerfield Drive. The property appears to be completely landlocked (no access from any public street) and is surrounded by private property. The property known as 700V Glendale Road is located just outside the Red Gap Estates subdivision and primarily wet with the Cadwell Brook running through the middle. Neither parcel appears to be developable. A suggestion was made by a Commissioner to sell the parcel to the adjacent neighbors to create larger lots. The Conservation Commission felt that there was no apparent reason to accept these parcels because of the reasons written above.

Motion: Jim Roberts, turn down the request for acceptance of 700V Glendale Road and 23R Deerfield Drive

2nd: Tom Reavey

Unanimously in favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton Smead

Certificate of Compliance 181 Burleigh Road

The property owner, Jennifer Vallen appeared before the Commission to request a Certificate of Compliance for the work done at 181 Burleigh Road. However, the applicant, Jennifer Vallen, did not file an "as-built" with the request. Several members of the Commission went to the property to verify work completed and the site appeared to be stable with the permanent limit of work markers in place. The applicant expressed a financial hardship and is not able to afford an Environmental Engineer to complete the "as-built". The Conservation Commission expressed to her that they will accept an "as-built" from a land surveyor. Ms. Vallen said she will hire a surveyor and will submit the documents when they are complete.

Discussion 6 Decorie Drive

This parcel has been under discussion for several weeks. The owners purchased the property in 2014 knowing the garage was constructed on Town-owned Conservation property. They submitted a proposal to exchange equal portions of property with the town so they could keep the garage and be within the zoning requirements. The portion of property that the owners want to give to the town is literally under water and would serve no purpose to the town or be developed in any way. One option would be to require the owners of 6 Decorie Drive purchase the portion of land that the garage is constructed. How do we determine what the value of the land is? Is it something that falls under the Procurement Laws? Conservation Commission George Reich indicated that he would contact Town Assessor Manny Silva to what the formula to calculate values.

Discussion 571 Glendale Road

Karen Leigh, the owner of 571 Glendale Road submitted a request to cut down a dead tree in the rear portion of her yard. The tree is in close proximity to an intermittent stream. At this time, a site plan was not submitted with the request and the Commission is tabling the discussion pending receipt of the site plan.

Discussion 899 Stony Hill Road

Alice Coleman and Brian Cunningham applied to the Wilbraham Planning Board for site plan approval to allow a temporary, seasonal farm stand from June to October on their property located at 899 Stony Hill Road. The Conservation Commission was notified of the use of the property by the Planning Board and had no objection of the proposal.

Discussion 911 Stony Hill Road

This parcel is adjacent to the North Branch Mill River and several abutting neighbors alerted the Building and Conservation office of activity on the parcel including excavation and/or cutting of brush and trees. The owners of the parcel recently appeared before the Conservation Commission for a Request for Determination of Applicability. It is believed that the owners were completing percolation test pits for potential development. At this time, there are no plans for development of the parcel.

Minutes: February 23, 2015

Motion: Jim Roberts, table minutes until video is reviewed

2nd: Stoughton Smead

Unanimously in favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton Smead

Minutes: March 23, 2015

Motion: Jim Roberts, accept minutes as reviewed and amended

2nd: Stoughton Smead

Unanimously in favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton Smead

Order of Conditions/Special Conditions	Bruuer Pond
Motion: Jim Roberts, accept conditions as discussed	d and amended

2nd: Stoughton Smead

Unanimously in favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, George Reich and Stoughton Smead

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The Conservation Commission will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted:	Approved As To Form And Content:
Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant	Christopher Brown, Chairman
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